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East Germany

COUNTRY _____ REPORT NO. _____

TOPIC _____ Military Information from the East-Berlin Area

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EVALUATION _____

DATE OF CONTENT _____ 10 November to 12 December 1953

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DATE OBTAINED _____ PREPARED _____ 14 January 1954

REFERENCES _____

PAGES _____ 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

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SOURCE _____

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1. On 7 December 1953, the cantonment in Wuhlheide, south of the Karlshorst racecourse near Berlin, was occupied by about 2,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery and tank insignia; and, a few, black-bordered crimson epaulets and black-bordered black epaulets. Beginning on 5 December, about 20 tanks and 2 armored scout cars were observed in the west section of the camp, in addition to the vehicles and tanks observed in the new tank and motor vehicle sheds, which were occupied to capacity as previously. Between 16 and 23 November, source determined that construction work was also under way northwest of the meadow in the woods. Foundations, probably for large vehicle sheds, were being completed. The two sheds in the northwest and southeast corner of the abovementioned meadow were being broken down. They presumably had served as temporary depots for construction material. Source determined that 2 new wooden sheds were under construction in this meadow and 2 one-story brick buildings for EM were being built in the old cantonment. On 5 December, 3 SU-100 SP guns left the camp and, at about 8 p.m., 360 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets left the installation toward the Russian motion picture theater near the railroad station. On other days of observation, up to about 60 troops received infantry training. On 7 December, 3 trucks towing 57-mm AT guns left the camp for training in the area east of the restricted area. Motor vehicles seen en route to and from the installation _____

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2. On 17 November, the Johannisthal salvage depot opposite the new KVP Kaserne between Grossberliner Damm and the Schoeneweide operational railroad station was occupied by about 100 to 150 troops wearing black-bordered crimson epaulets. Ten to 15 trucks were in the quartering area. Source did not observe any training activity. _____

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3. On 6 December, the restricted area in the west section of the Wuhlgarten Heilanstalt (insane asylum), Berlin-Biesdorf, was occupied by about 1,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. About 35 T-34/85 tanks, 15 to 20 tank trucks and/or trailers, 2 jeeps, 2 sedans and about 20 trucks were seen in the shade. Obstacles from the tank training area west of Wuhlgarten were shipped to the area north of Wuhlgarten. On 30 November, noises of tank engines were heard from this area. At about noon, 3 T-34/85 tanks, [redacted] entered the quartering area. They were followed by about 60 troops, wearing red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with tank insignia. Source determined that construction material, including iron girders, was constantly shipped to the quartering area.

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4. On 6 December, the cantonment at Wuhlheide, south of the Karlshorst race-course, was occupied by about 2,000 to 2,500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, mostly with tank insignia; and, a few, black-bordered crimson epaulets. On 30 November, about 15 to 20 trucks had taken position along the exit road to Treptow Park.

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5. On 12 December, the restricted area in the west section of the Wuhlgarten Heilanstalt was occupied by about 1,000 troops. Sentries seen there wore red-bordered black epaulets. Source observed 1/ tank trucks with trailers in the quartering area and about 42 tanks under the lean-to roofs, south of the cemetery. At about 4 p.m., a T-34/85 tank entered the installation from the direction of Alt-Biesdorf.

6. Beginning about 26 November, an area of about 100 x 80 meters was being cleared by German workers in the woods south of the Gracitz stadium, north of the Hoppegarten railroad station. Sections of one-story temporary wooden buildings were hauled to the clearing. Neusschwan residents stated that a cantonment, either for the Soviet Army or the KVP, was to be built there.

7. At about 1 p.m. on 3 December, [redacted]

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8. On 3 December, the restricted area in the west section of the Wuhlgarten Heilanstalt was occupied. Sentries observed wore red-bordered black epaulets. All was quiet in the quartering area. Eleven tanks, including JS-2 tanks, and 7 tank trucks with trailers were observed.

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2. Comment. Same source, in late October, made similar observations.

3. Comment. The information indicates no change in the occupation by elements of the 6th Gds Recon Div of the west section of the Wuhlgarten Heilanstalt over the last report of late October. [redacted] that those elements include units of the 93d Tank Regt.

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